

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MICHAEL D. O'CONNOR

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael D. O'Connor, a heroic veteran from Blue Springs, Missouri. Michael has an incredible history of service and honor to his country, and it is my pleasure to highlight just a few of his stories.

Michael was born in Oconto, Wisconsin on June 6, 1918. He is a veteran of World War II who was in the 1st Marine Division and served at the Battle of Midway in 1943. He also served in the Battles of Peleliu and Cape Gloucester, serving a total of four Southwest Pacific campaigns, as well as six months of service in Australia. Michael has witnessed many historical moments in his life, including when he was stationed in Honolulu when Martial Law was declared following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. He even served as an MP at President Franklin Roosevelt's funeral.

Michael has received three purple hearts for his sacrifice to his country. Aside from this, he lives quietly in Blue Springs and rarely receives recognition for his service, like so many other veterans across the nation. It is an honor to have someone like Mr. O'Connor in the Sixth Congressional District, who like so many others has dedicated his life to defending our freedom. His courage and dedication should serve as an example to the rest of us on how we can better serve each other and our great nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Michael D. O'Connor for his dedication to his country. I know Michael's family and friends join with me in congratulating him on his graduation and wishing him best of luck on all of his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOKKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FOUNDING COMMEMORATIVE GATHERING IN NEW YORK CITY

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Sokka Gakkai International, whose founding commemorative gathering is being celebrated at its Manhattan Cultural Center this month. Sokka Gakkai International, or SGI, is a worldwide Buddhist organization with 12 million members. SGI is dedicated to the universal principles of peace, culture, and education and thus encourages its members to assert responsibility for their lives to contribute to the building of a world in which people of different faiths and backgrounds can live together in peace and harmony.

Sokka Gakkai International, whose name can be translated as the "Value Creation Society," has expanded its reach around the world since its founding 34 years ago on the island of Guam. Under the influence of its founding and current President, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, the Buddhist philosopher, educator, writer and poet, SGI has grown to span 192 countries across the globe, and counts 12 million adherents worldwide. More than 10,000 members live in New York City.

On January 26, 2009, more than 500 representatives gathered at SGI's New York Cultural Center, which is located in New York State's 14th Congressional District that I am privileged to represent. They convened in order to celebrate world peace, culture, and the value of education. Through its dedication to tolerance for all citizens of the world, respect for human rights, and the pursuit of peace through strict adherence to the principle of non-violence, Sokka Gakkai International has provided worshipers of the Buddhist faith with an organizational vehicle with transformative potential and a creed of harmony and understanding.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to represent the Sokka Gakkai International's New York Cultural Center. I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions to our educational and civic life made by the Sokka Gakkai International, its visionary President Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, and its dedicated members.

### SUPPORTING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 211, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Women's History Month. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

Throughout the month of March, we pause to celebrate the rich achievements women have made in every aspect of life—whether in arts, government, science, sports, or family life. We stand here to champion these contributions and honor those taking the lead to save our planet.

Before the 1970s women's history was largely overlooked, but today we cannot ignore the significant contributions women have made in shaping our country and building for a brighter, more peaceful future.

Recognizing these accomplishments through Women's History Month will no doubt greatly impact the self-esteem of young women and girls.

Emphasizing the wide range of educational and career opportunities, and introducing them to positive role models of all backgrounds, will leave a lasting impression on the future women leaders of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to support House Resolution 211, recognizing the unique role of women and working to increase awareness of women's involvement in our history.

### HONORING SISTER PATRICE COOLICK, C.S.J.

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Patrice Coolick, Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet, as she celebrates the Golden Jubilee of taking her vows. Her family and friends will celebrate this anniversary with her on March 21st.

Since taking her vows on March 19, 1959, Sister Patrice moved from Flushing, Michigan to Missouri and attended Fontbonne University. She received her Bachelor Degree in Nursing from the College of St. Catherine in 1967 and one year later began working in Lima, Peru at the Military Hospital. She came back to the United States and completed a physician's assistant program at Saint Louis University. Upon receiving her degree she returned to Peru. In 1983 she became part of a medical team working in refugee camps in Thailand and Sudan.

Sister Patrice returned to the United States and earned a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from the Santa Clara University-California. She joined the O'Connor Hospital staff working in the oncology department and she became a member of the staff at Santa Clara Catholic Charities.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the life of Sister Patrice Coolick. Throughout her life she has worked to bring physical and spiritual healing to the destitute, the displaced and the discouraged. She has taken her God-given gifts of nursing and empathy and given back to the disheartened of our world. Above all Sister Patrice demonstrates in small everyday acts of love, her commitment to following the words of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, contained in Matthew 25:40, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me." May God continue to bless Sister Patrice and inspire her in her work.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 69TH INFANTRY OF THE NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard who are being honored on St.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.